

State of Tennessee

PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 200

SENATE BILL NO. 101

By Norris, Stevens

Substituted for: House Bill No. 90

By McCormick, Kevin Brooks, Littleton, Favors, Hardaway, Sargent, Gravitt, Camper, Akbari

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 36, Chapter 5, Part 1, relative to collection of child support arrears.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 36-5-101(f), is amended by adding the following language as a new subdivision:

(6)(A) With the approval of the court, the obligor and obligee shall have the right to compromise and settle a child support arrearage balance owed directly to the obligee. The authority is given to forgive accrued principal and interest on delinquent child support with the approval of the obligee and shall not include any monies owed to this or any other state. In all Title IV-D cases, the department of human services or its contractors must be a party to the action. Both the obligee and obligor must consent to the compromise and settlement in writing in accordance with the procedures established by the child support agency or court.

(B) Prior to giving consent, the obligee shall be provided with a written explanation of the compromise and settlement and of the obligee's rights with respect to child support arrears owed to the obligee. In no event may an offer of compromise and settlement of any child support arrears owed directly to the obligee be accepted unless the obligee consents to the offer of compromise and settlement in writing.

(C) To be eligible for a compromise and settlement of the child support arrearage balance, the obligor must pay the child support obligation in full as ordered for a minimum of twelve (12) consecutive months immediately preceding the compromise and settlement between the obligor and obligee in order to compromise and settle the remaining balance. If additional child support arrears accrue after a compromise and settlement, such subsequent arrears shall be paid in full and not subject to further compromise and settlement.

(D) A compromise and settlement of a lesser amount than the total principal and interest that is owed shall not be considered against public policy if the compromise and settlement is in the best interest of the child or children.

(E) The program shall operate uniformly across this state and shall take into consideration the needs of the child or children subject to the child support order and the obligor's ability to pay.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 36-5-101(f)(1), is amended by deleting the subdivision and substituting the following:

(1) Any order for child support shall be a judgment entitled to be enforced as any other judgment of a court of this state, and shall be entitled to full faith and credit in this state and in any other state. Except as provided in subdivision (f)(6), such judgment shall not be subject to modification as to any time period or any amounts due prior to the date that an action for modification is filed and notice of the action has been mailed to the last known address of the opposing parties. If the full amount of child support is not paid by the date

when the ordered support is due, the unpaid amount is in arrears, shall become a judgment for the unpaid amounts, and shall accrue interest from the date of the arrearage at the rate of twelve percent (12%) per year. All interest that accumulates on arrearages shall be considered child support. Computation of interest shall not be the responsibility of the clerk.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2015, the public welfare requiring it.

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PASSED: April 6, 2015

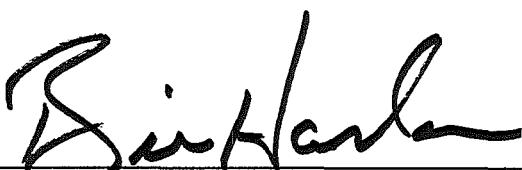


RON RAMSEY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE



BETH HARWELL, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 20th day of April 2015



BILL HASLAM, GOVERNOR